

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the claims with the following:

1. (Currently amended) An assembly for use in a wellbore formed in an earth formation, comprising:

an expandable tubular element and an outer structure having first and second portions arranged at a distance from each other, wherein the expandable tubular element shortens as a result of radial expansion thereof;

the first portion and the second portion of the outer structure being connected to the tubular element throughout radial expansion of the tubular element at respective locations axially spaced from each other such that the distance between the first and second portions changes during radial expansion of the tubular element between the first and second portions; and

the outer structure further having a third portion arranged to move radially outward upon the change in distance between the first and second portions;

wherein the radially outward movement of the third portion is larger than the radially outward movement of the tubular element that results from radial expansion of the tubular element.

2. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the third portion is arranged to move radially outward as a result of a decrease in distance between the first portion and the second portions.

3. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the third portion is arranged to move radially outward by virtue of radially outward bending of the third portion.

4. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the first portion and the second portion of the outer structure are welded to the tubular element at respective locations axially spaced from each other.

5. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the tubular element is an inner tubular element and the outer structure is an outer expandable tubular element arranged around the inner tubular element, and wherein the outer tubular element, when unrestrained from the inner tubular element, is susceptible to less axial shortening as a result of radial expansion than the inner tubular element.

6. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the outer tubular element is provided with a plurality of openings in the wall thereof, said openings overlapping each other in the axial direction.

7. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 6, wherein said openings are slots provided in the wall of the outer expandable tubular element, the slots extending in substantially in the axial direction.

8. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the first portion and the second portion are respective end portions of the outer tubular element.

9. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 5, wherein an annular space is formed between the inner tubular element and the outer tubular element upon radial expansion of the inner tubular element, said space being filled with a fluidic compound.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein said space is filled with a hardenable fluidic compound.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer structure includes at least one elongate member extending in the axial direction of the tubular element.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the outer structure includes a plurality of said elongate members regularly spaced along the circumference of the tubular element.

14. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 13, wherein each of said elongate members is a metal bar.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)